

# IRANIAN SHIP SAILS ON DISPUTED RIVER

**Jets, Escorting Freighter,  
Fly Along Iraqi Border**

TEHERAN, Iran, April 22 (Reuter)—An Iranian freighter sailed down the disputed Shatt al Arab river border between Iran and Iraq today, escorted by heavily armed Iranian Navy craft and jet fighters.

The precautions followed a reported Iraqi threat last week to prevent passage of Iranian ships along the Shat al Arab, the estuary formed by the confluence of the Tigris and the Euphrates.

The 1,176-ton Ebnesina sailed from Abadan, 30 miles upriver early today and continued into the Persian Gulf without incident, an Iranian announcement said.

Meanwhile, Iran continued a defensive build-up and the



The New York Times April 23, 1969  
**Iranian freighter sailed down  
the river (cross) along the  
Iraqi border with an escort.**

strengthening of fortifications along the riverbank.

The Shah of Iran conferred today with Premier Amir Abbas Hoveida, top military commanders and Foreign Ministry officials on the dispute with Iraq.

Navy and army units and jet fighters were placed on full alert to counter any interference from Iraqi forces massing along the border, according to reports.

On the Iranian side of the waterway, artillery, heavy tanks, anti-aircraft units and machine guns covered with camouflage netting were put in position along the river and around the commercial port of Khurramshahr and the Abadan oil refinery.

The border dispute has simmered for 10 years. Iran last Saturday abrogated a navigation treaty with Iran and Deputy Foreign Minister Khosrow Afshar said Iraq had threatened to block the passage of Iranian ships.